

Comment on the CA Waterfix/Delta Tunnels from Charlyn and Graham Connor, North Delta Farmers

Address: 37913 County Road 144, Clarksburg, CA 95612

May 28, 2017 RE: Delta Stewardship Council meeting

Our family has farmed for a living on 280 acres of prime agricultural land since 1872. The main issues that concern us in regard to this plan are loss of WATER QUALITY that is vital for sustaining our livelihood and our safe drinking water and DAMAGE TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE that are a vital part of our ecosystem.

Our area of the Delta where the proposed tunnels would be built is laced with underground rivers and layers of salt from ancient lake bottoms. The tunnel excavation de-watering wells will dig into those rivers and layers causing contamination of our home water wells and soil. Salts take about 50 years to leach out and prohibit crop growth, as the West Side farmers are now experiencing.

Diverting the amounts of water proposed by the plan will allow salt water intrusion from the bay to flow upriver as far as our farm, also damaging water quality. A recent EPA Report charged that there would be undeniable damage to the Delta ecosystem and would not restore present damage. The Independent Review Panel that DSC recently convened saw flaws in the biological opinion DSC presented and charged that a comprehensive mitigation plan for restoration must be included before moving forward with a plan. Please carefully consider long-term changes that would result from water removal diversions to the habitat and water quality of the North Delta.

With climate change bringing the threat of increased flooding to the Northern Sacramento Valley, we need state and federal plans to increase water storage facilities, improve levees, and other flood-control measures to prevent the destruction of our cities, towns, and farms. The tunnels will not provide that protection.